

REMARKS

Claims pending in the instant application are numbered 1-9 and 17-35. Claims 1-9, 17-23, 25, 26 and 28-33 presently stand rejected. Claims 24, 27 and 34-35 are objected to.

Claims 1, 4, 17-19, 21-22, 24-25, 27-28 and 30-35 have been amended. Claims 36 and 37 have been added. The Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the present application in view of the amendments and the following remarks.

35 U.S.C. §112 Rejections

Claim 21 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. Specifically, claim 21 is dependent upon claim 21.

Claim 21 has been amended. Accordingly, the Applicant respectfully requests that the instant § 112 rejections be withdrawn.

35 U.S.C. §102 and § 103 Rejections

Claims 1, 3-7, 9-10, 12-21, 22-28 and 30 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Schell et al., U.S. Patent Number 6,314,520.

Claims 2 and 29 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Schell in view of Circello et al., U.S. Patent Application Publication US 2003/0061461. Claim 8 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Schell in view of Rapp U.S. Patent Application Publication US 2001/0014036. Claims 17-21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Schell. Claims 22-23 and 25-26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Schell in view of Sibigroth,

U.S. Patent Number 4,580,246. Claim 33 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Schell in view Circello.

Independent claims 1, 17, 22, 25, 28 and 33 have been amended to include allowable subject identified by the Examiner on page 10 of the instant Office Action. Claims 2-9, 18-21, 23-24, 26-27, 29-32 and 34-37 properly depend from allowable independent claims and thus are allowable. Accordingly, the Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to withdraw the instant § 102 and § 103 rejections.

Conclusion

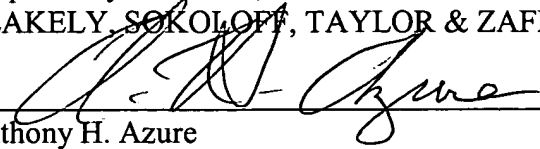
The Applicant respectfully submits that in view of the amendments and remarks set forth herein, all pending claims are in condition for allowance. Therefore, the Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to issue a Notice of Allowance in this case.

Charge Deposit Account

Please charge our Deposit Account No. 02-2666 for any additional fee(s) that may be due in this matter, and please credit the same deposit account for any overpayment.

Respectfully submitted,
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